

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2007

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday May 22, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council members present were: Chairman Nathan Miller, Vice Chairman John Walker, Dave Reagan, Garry Smith, Carol Shelby and Councilmember Betty Michael. Also present: Director Mark Kirby, Assistant Director Tim Batta, TEMA Technician Martin Webb and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Approval of Minutes

Carol Shelby moved to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2007 meeting, second by Garry Smith; motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Mark Kirby reported on grants for 2006. These grants have not been released, but budgets have been set. Final approval is needed from the state to engage in implementation. A portion of the grant funding will support the Mobile Operations Unit. The unit will purchase new equipment for field operations allowing them to work independently.

Director Kirby noted the state is requiring each district to form a task force. This task force will be mobilized in the event of a crisis instate or out of state. He added involvement from law enforcement, EMS and hazardous materials units will be needed to create the team. Director Kirby estimates the project will take one year to implement.

Recently, TEMA purchased a 28' travel trailer for field use. He added the trailers were manufactured to accommodate individuals in the gulf after the floods. Director Kirby mentioned the trailer is brand new and will be available for use by other county entities as needed.

Director Kirby noted the siren segregation process is still moving forward. Currently, electronic components are being installed and ultimately the process will require hands-on attention to complete. He is confident that the entire process will come in under the \$40,000 budget designated by the Commissioners from the EDIT fund.

Purdue University is implementing a Campus Community Emergency Response Team (C-CERT) program. The C-CERT program will serve the university in the event of an emergency. Director Kirby added that the C-CERT program will work closely with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in Tippecanoe County in an effort to be co-efficient.

Emergency Management received a Shining Star award for inter-agency cooperation from the American Red Cross. Together TEMA and the American Red Cross are making great strides in community emergency efforts.

Director Kirby received approval from the commissioners to pay overtime for TEMA employees. In the past, staff members have not been paid for after hour's call-outs or weekend training courses. Between the staff members this year, 1000 hours have been documented as overtime. He added that the budget did not reflect overtime pay and he will request additional appropriations to finish the year.

Committee Reports

The Communications committee has not met recently. Dave Reagan requested information regarding HAM operators. Director Kirby noted efforts on the part of TEMA have been unsuccessful to date. The HAMS group refuses organized cooperation and insists on publicly degrading TEMA actions. Due to the uncooperative actions of the group, TEMA has severed ties with the group. Recently, a Radio Armature Civil Emergency Service (RACES) group was established to assist with emergency communications. Director Kirby added the RACES group will assume control of the HAMS band in the event of an emergency to provide more effective communications for Emergency Management personnel.

There has been no recent action taken on the Reverse 911 system. Director Kirby added that the tools are available, but there is a shortfall in personnel to assume responsibility. There are two different systems available for the reverse 911 calling system. One option would utilize Reverse 911 personnel to make mass emergency calls at \$.20 per call. The other option would allow local personnel to initiate land line calls for emergencies as well as other vital information. Director Kirby noted that these systems work independently and the delay with the local system should not delay the mass calling efforts that can be performed by Reverse 911 personnel. He has approached senior staff at the sheriff's department to no avail. Chairman Miller noted that he will personally contact Sheriff Brown in an attempt to solve the problem.

Dave Reagan is currently working with Purdue University in an effort to interface the computer system to warn students of an emergency on campus. The sirens on campus can't be heard by all individuals and with today's technology, an electronic message sent campus wide will be seen by most students and faculty.

HAZMAT Team

The HAZMAT Team has not responded to any calls since the last meeting.

Siren Committee

Assistant Director Tim Batta noted parts are in for the technology change over. The next step will be the zoning of sirens. Lafayette Venetian Blind's siren failed with the last testing cycle. Assistant Director Batta discovered the board for that siren had been incorrectly programmed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Christopher Burke Report

Chairman Miller reviewed portions of the report with committee members. He noted recommendations by Christopher Burke need official responses from the committee and should be finished in the fall. Follow-up action items are indicated on the draft report with a finished date undetermined. Chairman Miller discussed recommendations and requested input from the advisory council. After discussions, it was determined that a sub-committee be formed to further evaluate and complete the report.

Meeting was adjourned.